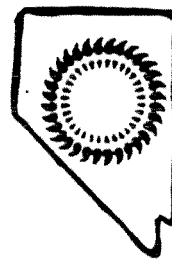


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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SYNOPSIS

Most of Nevada had a wet and mild February. Exceptions to this were a few Central and Southern locations that continued a much drier than normal regime this Winter Season, and several locations in the Northeast where the mercury fell well below zero early in the month. In fact, the -42° at Wildhorse Reservoir, and -41° at Charleston broke the old State record of -38° set in 1989 at Wildhorse. Some other very cold February readings were; San Jacinto with -31° , Boies Ranch, where Marla Griswold recorded -29° , and -25° 's at Mountain City and Montello.

The 1995-96 Water Year Precipitation to date (Oct. 1, 1995-March 1, 1996) is above normal in the Sierra Nevada in Far Western Nevada, and in the Northern $\frac{1}{2}$ of the State. Some locations in the North have had more than $1\frac{3}{4}$ times normal precipitation (for example, Emigrant Pass 190%, Clover Valley 177% and Battle Mountain 174%). This is quite a contrast to several sites in Southern and Central Nevada where less than half of the normal precipitation has occurred (for example, Pioche 39%, Tonopah 34%, Searchlight 28%, and Las Vegas 15%).

TEMPERATURE

With the exception of much of the Northeast where several well below zero marks were logged, temperatures in the remainder of Nevada averaged near or above normal. In fact, Las Vegas was almost 4° above normal for the 6th warmest February since Airport records began in 1937.

Extreme high temperatures did not near records, as the mercury reached only into the mid 80's in Moapa Valley and along the Colorado River. The State February record was set at Laughlin in 1986, when a 93° reading heated up the area.

PRECIPITATION

The Northern ½ of Nevada was generally wet this month while the South remains drier than normal. The wettest locations were in the mountainous areas such as Verdi Peak near Reno, with 13.27" and 96" of snow. Upper Incline with 8.25" and 75" of snow for a two month snow total of 213", Kyle canyon near Las Vegas with 7.79" and 37" of snow, Woodfords 7.29", Dagget Pass 7.00", and Incline 6.71" and 47" of snow. All these figures are well above normal.

The driest locations were; Las Vegas with only .14", the same as Dick Engle's Goldpoint location, and .19 at Las Vegas Spring Valley and Tonopah, and .21" at Dyer. These totals are all less than ½ normal.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours and wind speed averages were well below normal Statewide with evaporation above normal at the two measurement sites in the South where equipment is still in use this month.

No extreme winds were recorded, except at Sierra Nevada mountaintop locations, where 100+ mph were found some days.

Note: March in History

1893 - Palmetto (The ruins can be found between Lida and Dyer) recorded 6.93" of precipitation and 55" of snowfall.

1903 - Rioville (Site now under Lake Mead) had 101° for Nevada's hottest March day.

1969 - Diamond Valley fell to -33° for Nevada's coldest March morning.

John W. James
State Climatologist

Gary Rinaudo is the State of Nevada's Official Volunteer Weather Observer in Winnemucca. Gary's hobby is the weather, and he has several other instruments at his home, that in addition to precipitation and temperature, measure wind, humidity, and pressure. With the recent removal of National Weather Service personnel from the Winnemucca Airport and only an automatic instrument left, Gary's snowfall measurements are now the only ones in the area.

Gary has been recording the weather daily for the past 12 years sending a daily record each month to the State Climate Office and a weekly report to the local Humboldt Sun Newspaper. He Moved to Winnemucca from Sacramento 17 years ago, after being raised in the Sonoma Valley of California.

His job as a night stocker for Raley's Stores hasn't kept him from a perfect record - not a day missed in 12 years!!

Thanks Gary for being one of Nevada's Best Weather Observers!

